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The tired Petitioner,

TO

His noble Friends, who are Members of the honourable Houſe of Commons.

SIRS, if this *Paper* find you (who, to me
Are not ſo fully knowne, as you ſhould be)
It comes to move, that, my *Petitions* may
Obtaine your Anſwer without more delay;
Leſt by *Attendance* (as my Neighbours do)
With my *Eſtate*, I loſe my *Patience* too.
For, I have waited, and endur'd ſo long,
That, no *Refuſals* can doe me greater wrong
Then lingring hopes; And, were I quite undone,
I, poſſibly, another courſe might run
To be repair'd again, ere I obtaine
That Benefit, which I, had hope to gaine:
Or, els, might find ſome other likely way
To fit me for the part I have to play.
Some ſay my *Friends* are moe then I do know:
And, I am hopefull that it may be ſo;
For, if kind language, and much complement
Are ſignes thereof; nor *Chriſtendome*, nor *Kent*
Knowes any man who may himſelfe apply
Unto your *Houſe*, with better hopes then I:
But, if by *reall-deeds*, it muſt be known
What *Friends* I have, their *number* ſmall is grown:
Or, els, their *Pow'r* attaineth not unto
Thoſe Friendly Offices they wiſh to do;
And, peradventure, they obſtructed be
In their endeavours, by defects in me.

It may be 'tis obſerv'd, I want *Relations*,
Guifts-qualifying, or thoſe *Commendations*
That ſhould advance my *Suites*; and, which do make
Thoſe active, who, mens *Cauſes* undertake;
And I halfe think it ſo: For, e're this day,
Some one or other had, els, gotten way
For my Petitions; or appeared able
To make my *ſuites* and *me* conſiderable;
Since, other, who have neither *loſt*, nor *ſpent*,
Nor for the *Publike*, hazzarded or lent
Life, *Limb*, or *money*; (yea, though they, before,
Had profitable places) meet with more
Succeſſe then I; and, daily can be heard
With expedition, and with good regard.
But, (whatſoe're the other cauſes are
Why thus it comes to paſſe) this, doth appear,
That, they who now are my *Competitors*,
Have ſo o'rematched my *Solicitors*,
That, if I ſpeed, your *Houſe*, will prove, to me,
A better *Friend* then *Individuall* be.
I find, that, many who, a while agoe,
Appear'd for me, do now (*Gradatim*) grow
Elſewhere ingag'd. I find, that, they begin
To reckon, how the *place* hath valued been;
And, to expoſtulate, and to admire
How, I, to an *Employment* dar'd aſpire
Of *Truſt* or *Worth*; who, am diſpoil'd of that,
Which (in their judgment) ſhould ſecure the *State*:
As if, a known *unblamed-Converſation*
Were no *Security*; or, out of fashion:
As if, my *portion*, in the *publike* hand,
Might not, aſwell, for *good-aſſurance* ſtand,
As if it were in mine: Or, as if he
Who, for his *Country*, prodigall could be,
Of all he had, deſerv'd not to be thought
As truſty, as they are, who, never, ought
Adventur'd, nor had ought, but what they got
By gaining *Truſt*, where they deſerv'd it not.

If

If all were weigh'd, admire they rather may
That, I my paines dare venture in a way
Wherein I have so often sought in vain,
Those things, which unto me of right pertain.
They might admire, that I, who have not bin
A *Servant*, nor, am known to be, of kin
To *Peer* or *Commoner*; nor have the skill
To make a *Party*; nor, thereto, a *Will*
That, I who follow *Suites*, as if I thought,
That Justice, should be neither sold nor bought,
Or got by importunities; save, where
The *Judge* doth neither GOD, nor *Mortal* fear:
That, I, should ever hope to compasse that,
Which any other thinkes worth aiming at;
Since, cause, perhaps enough, is found, why none
Thus minded, should presume to think upon
A *Place of profit*; and, conceive to get
His hopes, by *merit*, *honesty*, or *wit*:
For, I do find that, in this *undertaking*
Great rubs are made (and many other making)
So troublesome to passe, that, I am tir'd:
And, had I but that competence acquir'd,
Which I have lost; this life, I would not live,
For all, the *King* and *Parliament* could give.
One, of your *Order*, told me, at your dore
Since my *last-suite* was tendred (and, before
He had perused it) that, I deserved
No *Favour*: (Oh! how strangely have I swerved!)
But, as, I to his face, made answer, then,
So, now, I say, (and I will say't agen)
Let me receive but *Justice*, and I'le wave
All *humane-Mercie*; and, yet hope to have
A happier condition by the same
Then that, whereto, I now exposed am.
Another of them tells me, that, in vain,
I seek, what I make suit for, in the *mean*,
Whil'st I am in *Confinement*: As if, you
Could but one *Blessing*, at one time, allow:

Or els, as if, becauſe I now have had
(Like one, of whom the ſlight'ſt account is made)
Nine Months *Reſtraint* (and, thereby am become
A *Bond-man*, without either *formall-dooms*
Or, *Breach of Law*,) I, therefore, muſt expect,
My chiefe deſire, will find the leſſe effect:
Which ſeemes to me, as if a man ſhould ſay,
The more he *owes*, the leſſe he means to *pay*.
A third man intimates; becauſe, he ſees
I wear not, yet *Sheeps-leather*, or *Welch-freeze*;
(But, by GOD'S bleſſing, hitherto have borne
My uſuall *Port*, to put aſide the ſcorne
Of *Knaves* and *Fooles*) that I am not undone
Sufficiently, to be ſo thought upon
As I deſire: But, ſuch as theſe prolong
The publike Judgements, and our private wrong,
Through want of reall feeling what we bear
Whoſe *plaints* they pocket, and whoſe cries they heare
Without regard: For, when we moſt are griev'd,
So little of our ſuffrings is believ'd,
As if men had nor heart nor power to think,
That ought we ayl'e, till we be dead and ſtink.
A fifth, doth much perſwade me to forbeare
My preſent *Suite*; becauſe he ſeemes to fear
My late *bold-numbers* have incenſt ſo many,
That, I ſhall hardly find regard from any,
When I expect it: which, to be believed,
(Where I have hope with grace to be received)
Is ſo abominable; that, I truſt
To find their *Generall-Concluſions* juſt,
(Though I in *perſon*, *goods*, and *reputation*,
Have lately ſuffered by miſinformation:)
For (thought I otherwiſe) I would diſdain
To them, for *Grace* or *Juſtice* to complain;
Though I were plung'd, into a worſe condition,
Then ſeems approaching, by my laſt Petition.
I cannot fear that they who *true-men* be,
Will for *true-ſpeaking* be diſplea'd with me,

But

But, rather, by vouchſafing what I crave
Be glad the Kingdome may occaſion have
To ſee their Juſtice, by repairing him,
Who gave himſelfe, to be undone for them:
For them, who buy leſſe honour, at the price;
Then may be purchaſed by this device.
But, hitherto, my hopes, do not ſucceed
According to my ſuffrings, and my need.
Two *Monthes*, upon *one* Suite, I have beſtowne;
Upon a former, thrice three *Monthes*, and *one*;
Upon *another*, foure times three, and nine;
Yet, ſtill, ſome other *Cauſe* out-juſtles mine:
And, ev'n by favours hitherto obtained,
More Miſchiefes, then Advantages, are gained;
Becauſe, in th'execution, they have wanted
That influence, whereby they firſt were granted.
This, with uncrazed patience I can bear,
So long as my deſires delay'd appear,
By thoſe affaires, which profitable bee
Unto the *Publike*, though they hinder mee:
Since, whilſt that thriver, I cannot be bereft
Of all my hopes, nor comfortleſſe be left.
But, if I ſtill perceive my Suites delay'd,
Or croſt, for *Private-ends*; I am afraid
My *Greevances*, will make my *Plaints* outroare
The *Cries*, of all the Women at your dore.
Preſerve I would, according to my might,
My *Private-Freedomes*, with our *Publike-Right*;
And, Wiſe-men will conſider, that, unleſſe
They heed, ſometime, a ſingle-mans diſtreſſe,
(At leaſt in his extreames) that, one by one,
The *Generality* may be undone;
And, that, a bruiſe upon the ſmalleſt-toe
May cauſe the bodies totall overthrow.
In me (although my ſufferings are deſpis'd)
The *Common-Greevance*, is epitomis'd;
And, as, this day, the *Kingdomes* Cauſe doth lye
Diſtreſt between two *Factions*, ſo do I;

For, what some would have granted for my sake,
Is crost, for *their sakes*, who the motion make:
And, that man, by no party groweth strong,
Who sides not with it, both in *Right*, and *Wrong*.
In all things, which, undoubtedly appeare,
Unto my Conscience, I, to both adhere;
And, do from neither, purposely dissent,
To make a Schisme, or nourish discontent.
I have in both, professed *Foes* and *Friends*,
In both, I have some hopes, on both, some ends;
But, without all designements upon either,
Save, how I may unite them, both together,
In such a Posture, as may free this Land
From those distructions, that seeme neer at hand;
And, woo them to be just, in every Action,
Without respect to *Friend*, to *Foe* or *Faction*.
Who e're, among you, shall thus minded be,
Whether he seem to love or malice me,
Whether he be of th'one to'ther side,
Whether my Suites be *granted* or denide,
By his endeavourings, it shall not wrest
My thoughts, for any private interest,
To murmur at him; so, he will befriend
My Suite so much, to bring it to an end:
That, from your Labyrinths, I may retire,
And, be again at leisure to enquire
What will become of Me; and, what of Them,
Who take the *Courses*, which I most contemn.
For, to retreat, and gotten ground to yeeld,
Is, otherwhile, the meanes to win a field;
And, he that would turne Floods another way,
Must dig his *Drains*, before he builds his Bay.

Heu; Temporum, prævaricari Mores!
Quis, delegabit Misero *favores?*
Quis, auscultabit Populi *Clamores;*
Vel, quis pensabit Pauperum *Dolores?*

Neve,

Nemo, fert Opem, viro perituro;
Sic ERAT, EST, *ac* ERIT *in futuro*;
Vt olim, tamen, in hac Verba juro,
Nec Habeo, nec Careo, nec Curo.

Nec Habeo, *quod visus sum habere*;
Nec Careo, *quod multi carere*,
Nec Curo, *quamvis deveratus ferè*;
Nam, Deo Vero, spem repono, verè.

Which is in English to this effect.

Oh! how corrupt this *Age* in manners growes!
Who, to the *Miserable*, mercy showes?
Who, on the *Peoples* cries, an ear bestowes?
Or, who compassionates the *Poore-mans* woes?

To succour the *Distressed*, none appear;
Thus 'twas, thus 'tis; and thus I'me like to fare:
Yet, as of old, this *Motto*, still, I bear;
I neither have, nor want, nor do I care.

I have not, what I had a while agoe;
I want not, that, which many others do;
Nor care I, though I quite neglected grow;
For, I in GOD confide, and will do so.

A Post-script.

He, that hath *Money* to procure his ends,
Needs neither strain his *wits*, nor tire his *Friends*.
He, that hath *Friends*, his matters to contrive,
May (though he hath nor Wit, nor Money) live.
He, that hath *Wit*, and wants the former two,
May live more richly, then he seemes to do.
He, that hath *two* of these, and wants but one,
Can neither happy be, nor quite undone?
He, that hath all of *these*, might be a *King*,
If he could wish, to be so poore a thing:
And, he that is depriv'd of all the *three*,
May be an *English-man*, for ought I see.

FINIS.